HOW OUR HEROES LOOK

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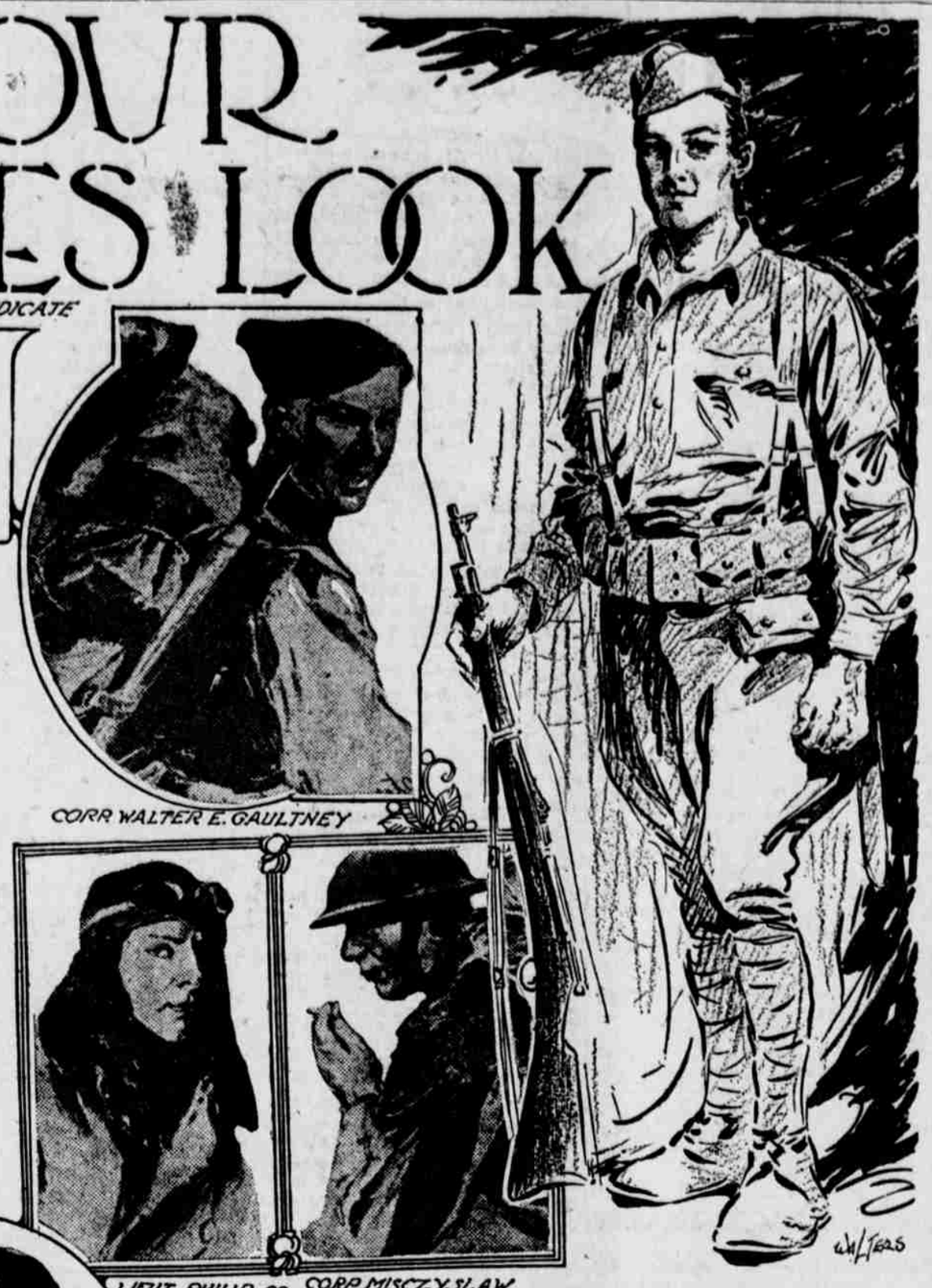
PORTRAITS OF MEDAL WINNERS BY J. C. CHASE FOR THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF AMERICA IN THE GREAT WAR



CORP WALTER E. GAULTNEY

LIEUT. PHILIP BENSON

CORP MISCZYSLAW BROCKI

PVT. H. J. DEVEREAUX

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN.

HARK! Now the city bells are ringin'.
Hark! Now the drums begin to beat.
Look! Where the banners all are swingin'.
Who's that marchin' up the street?
See! Where the flag is flyin' proudest.
Look! Where the hats are tossin', too.
Hark! Where the cheerin' is the loudest,
Who's that steppin' into view?

The answer is "The Marines"—the lines are from Joseph C. Lincoln's spirited tribute to the "Leathernecks," which was written shortly after they opened the ball in the first week of June, 1918, by stopping the victorious Germans in the Chateau Thierry sector, forty-odd miles from Paris. "You know the rest, in the books you have read"—how the marines not only stopped the selected German shock troops short, but went right at 'em and licked 'em to a frazzle. The marines were the whole thing then for quite a while. They were the first Americans to get into action on their own account and the Chateau Thierry story was spread broadcast over the world for the sake of its heartening effect on our allies. But this marine business is old stuff now.

Don't mistake me. The marines have not changed. And there are no better fighting men in the known world. For 100 per cent all 'round efficiency they have no equal. The military experts of all nations will tell you so. For one thing, they're always equipped, always ready, always packed up and asking, "Where do we go from here?" They're the oldest branch of the United States military service and Uncle Sam has used them so long as a sort of international M. P. that they really know their business. Before the great war, you know, they were the fighting men on our battleships, and when they were put ashore anywhere — it made no difference where—pretty soon Washington got this stereotyped message: "The marines have landed and have the situation well in hand." Add to this their unofficial motto, "What we have, we hold," and you have a pretty good line on this picked outfit of fighting men.

This marine stuff is old stuff for an entirely different reason—for two reasons. One is that there was a lot of fighting between June 1 and November 11, 1918. The other is that we are now beginning to hear all about it. The point is: While the marines kept right on adding to their laurels and the regulars ran 'em a dead heat, the common, every-day American soldier—all branches of the service—also got into action and staged some thrillers himself. National Guard, National army, air service—it made no difference. As fighting men they proved they were worthy to stand and to charge alongside regulars and marines—and words can say no more. They have their own place in the sun and they won it in the only way a fighting man can win it. You know how.

The German high command at the Spa in Belgium during the war studied the American soldier systematically and thoroughly, and formally wrote its conclusions into the official records. Major von Rundstendt, on General Ludendorff's staff, has made public some of these official conclusions. One is: "The Americans are very brave and active, but highly temperamental." He explained this by saying that with the Americans the fighting was a good deal of a sporting proposition, and that they wanted to get all the adventure and excitement possible out of it. Besides, it was impossible to tell what the Americans would do. They might attack anywhere and any time. They might get tired sitting around or get peeved at the mosquitoes or feel mad because their rations had not come up—then they were apt to take it out on the enemy. Major von Rundstendt, asked to name offhand some of the American divisions considered by the high command as among the best, replied:

"The division which you call 'the Rainbow in the Sky' (Forty-second), and that division made up half of marines (Second regulars); also the Twenty-eighth (Pennsylvania National Guard), and the First (regulars)."

When the high command records were examined these divisions were also found included among the most effective: Thirty-second (Michigan and Wisconsin National Guard), Twenty-sixth (National Guard, New England), Thirty-third (National Guard, Illinois, Prairie), and Thirty-seventh (National Guard, Ohio).

Official American Portraits.

The judgment of the German high command as to division efficiency, it will be noted, is borne out by the American records now beginning to be made public. And Major von Rundstendt unconsciously painted a gorgeous picture of the American soldier as a first-class fighting man.

It is when we come to the individual exploits of our fighting men that we get the real thrills. Official citations have given us the bald outlines of deeds of desperate valor that won recognition. Here and there some especially noteworthy exploit has found a sympathetic chronicler. Everywhere is this outstanding fact: Every fighting unit that got a chance at the Hun showed it was made up of heroes.

How do these incredible young fighting Americans look and act and have their being? Why, you know. You see these heroes every day—either actual or potential. They are coming back by the thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands. They look very much as they did when they went overseas — the able-bodied ones. You can see changes, if you look close, but in the main they are the same smiling, jolly, clean, decent, good-natured American boys. No wonder the French loved them for their looks and their ways, wondered if it was possible that they really could fight and went delirious with ecstasy when they put the Hun on the run and kept him going!

Well, the generations to come, who cannot see these American heroes in the flesh, will have the chance to see a few of these heroes in official portraits.

Joseph Cummings Chase, well-known portrait painter, who went overseas in October on a special mission for the War college, has returned. He brought with him 142 portraits, including a complete set of likenesses of the American generals overseas—save four, which he will be compelled to paint here. There are 72 portraits of generals, 50 of privates, "noncoms" and lieutenants who performed especially noteworthy service; 20 are pictures of officers of various grades. Mr. Chase was selected by the War college to paint these portraits, which are to be incorporated into the official history of America's participation in the great war.

Doubtless the generals and other officers of high rank are all imposing in looks, but their portraits have been published before. It is quite likely popular interest in these official portraits will run largely toward those of the fighting men. Somebody said: "No army is bigger than its 'buck privates.'" He said something.

The four portraits here reproduced out of 18 at hand are the selection of the etcher and not of the writer; so it is clear that reproduction quality and not the record of the soldier determined the choice. Yet this choice, haphazard as to deeds, shows clearly the marvelous qualities of the American soldier. Here is what the four did, in brief:

Lieut. Philip Benson, One Hundred and Eighty-fifth Aero Squadron.—During the last three weeks of the fighting Lieutenant Benson made trips nightly over German towns, dropping hundreds of bombs and fired thousands of rounds of ammunition into Hun supply trains. Of the pursuit group to which he belonged, only two pilots remained alive. His father is a well-known New York architect, and his uncle is the famous painter, Frank Benson. Work like this requires a different sort of courage from that of the charge in the heat of battle. Let your imagination go along with this aviator, alone in the heavens at night over the enemy country, and make your own estimate of this city boy, well-bred, educated and refined and of native American stock. Keep in mind, too, that aviators have to be just about 100 per cent perfect mentally and physically, and in a sense are volunteers.

Corp. Misczyslaw Brocki, Company B, Sixteenth Infantry, First Division.—South of Soissons on July 21, Corporal Brocki came to the conclusion that the Germans had too many machine guns. He picked out the two that were causing the heaviest losses to his company, went out single handed and captured those two particular guns, with every Boche pertaining thereto. His citation says this was only one incident of Corporal Brocki's activities. This man is of Polish birth or blood, according to Chase—evidently one of those "temperamental" fellows.

Corporal Walter E. Gaultney, Eleventh Infantry, Fifth Division.—Corporal Gaultney was picked out by his commander as an example of his finest type of soldier. Gaultney was wounded; that couldn't stop him. Alert, ingenious, speedy, heedless of personal danger, he went at the Hun like Samson with the well-known jaw bone—only this young Samson's jaw bone was that nice long trench knife you see strapped along his pack. Just what this young fellow did is not told; evidently he is a natural-born fighter and the regular army training has made him pretty nearly 100 per cent efficient as an all-around fighting man.

Private H. J. Devereaux, Company M, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Infantry, Thirty-second division.—When his company crossed the River Ourcq and captured the Bois Pelger, the corporal of his squad fighting beside Private Devereaux was wounded by machine gun fire. The corporal fell to the ground and the enemy continued to fire on the wounded man. Mad clear through, Devereaux sprinted across the open and, single-handed, attacked and put the machine gun out of action.

Greatest Feat of War.

It is also known that Chase has painted a portrait of Sergt. Alvin C. York of Pall Mall, Fentress county, Tenn., Company G, Three Hundred and Twenty-eighth Infantry, Eighty-second division. It is to be hoped that the painter did a first-class job, for York's exploit was probably the greatest individual feat of the war. York, then corporal, on October 8, 1918, killed 20 Germans, captured 132 prisoners, including a major and three lieutenants, put 35 machine guns out of business, and thereby broke up an entire battalion which was about to counterattack against the Americans on Hill 223 in the Argonne sector, near Chatel-Chehery. He outfought the machine gun battalion with his rifle and automatic pistol. There were seven other Americans with York, but it was York's fight and but for him not a man of them would have come out alive except as prisoner.

Moreover, the man and his home and his surroundings are intensely interesting, being entirely out of the ordinary. Here are a few outstanding facts:

He was born December 13, 1886, stands 6 feet and tips the scales at 205 pounds. He is red headed. He is a dead shot—absolutely sure death with either rifle or automatic; in the course of his fight he killed a German lieutenant and seven men who charged him from a distance of 20 yards. He is a fighter who gets cooler and cooler as the danger grows.

He used to drink, gamble and swear. He quit in 1915 and joined the Church of Christ and Christian Union, of which he is second elder and singing leader. He was a conscientious objector until convinced by Capt. E. C. B. Danforth at Camp Gordon that the Bible proved it his duty to fight. He believes in a personal God and looks upon his successful exploit as a miracle. "'Blessed is the peacemaker,'" he says.

He is a farmer and blacksmith and provides for his mother, one brother and three small sisters; the other six brothers and sisters are married. His forbears for generations were Tennesseeans.

When York landed the other day the Tennessee society took possession of him and tried to make him feel that New York city was his.

Of course York was having the time of his life, yet really, you know, he was regretting that he wasn't home to lead the singing at the Possum Trot spring revival.

And at the Possom Trot revival, in the valley of which Pall Mall, with its 20 houses, is the crossroads metropolis, York's neighbors were prouder over the fact that he had "kept straight" than over what he had done to the Hun. Besides, while Alvin was "all right," God had had him in charge since the day he enlisted. "It wasn't Alvin," said Grace Williams, who is waiting for him, "it was the hand of God."

Which reminds us of the first words of the Hun major captured by York.

"British?" he asked.

"American," said York.

"Good Lord!"

EASY TO COMBAT GARDEN INSECTS

Gardener Must Adopt Remedies Designed to Control Annual Horde of Pests.

CONTROL COLORADO BEETLE

It Feeds Readily on Poisoned Foliage and Well Known Treatments of Spraying Should Be Known to Potato Growers.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

From the time the earliest seed is put into the ground to the harvesting of the last crop, every home vegetable garden may be expected to suffer from the attacks of the army of insects pests which annually creep from their winter quarters, hungry from their long fast, to fatten on the carefully nurtured seedlings, riddle the grown plants, and multiply to countless thousands during the days of midsummer. The careful and far-sighted gardener may most readily demonstrate his skill through the adoption and correct application of the remedies best designed to control this horde.

Colorado Potato Beetle.

Wherever a small plot of potatoes is grown, the Colorado potato beetle is likely to be found. The mature or "hardshell" beetles which have spent the winter safely buried in the ground, begin to come out about the time when the plants are a few inches high. First they hungrily devour a part of the young and tender foliage, after which they begin to deposit, on the undersides of the leaves, their clusters of orange-colored eggs, of which a thousand or more may be laid by a single female. Effective work may be done at this time by hand-picking the beetles from the plants into a can of water, with a little kerosene over the surface. The eggs may be crushed between the thumb and finger.

Care at this stage will prevent the appearance of the fat, shiny red larvae or "slugs," which are much more destructive than the beetles, frequently stripping the plant entirely if left without attention. When first hatched, these feed in groups, but as they grow larger, they spread over the plant. When growth is completed, they descend to the ground, into which they burrow to a depth of several inches. When in the course of a few days they again emerge, they have taken the form of parent beetles.

Getting at That Potato Bug With a Hand Sprayer.

Means of Control.

The Colorado potato beetle is one of the pests most easily controlled. It feeds readily on poisoned foliage, and the well-known treatments of spraying or dusting with arsenate of lead or paris green should be familiar to every grower. The spray mixture may be prepared in small quantities by mixing two-thirds of an ounce, or ten level teaspoonfuls of powdered arsenate of lead with a gallon of water. This should be applied with a sprayer capable of throwing a fine, misty spray. A good atomizer will do effective work on a small scale, at a cost of a dollar or less. The upper surfaces of the leaves should be well covered by the spray. A simple method of dusting is to mix thoroughly the same quantity of powdered arsenate of lead or a heaping tablespoonful of paris green with a quart of air-slaked lime or lime plaster. Dust this over the plants by shaking through a cheesecloth bag.

RIGHT PLACE FOR MATERIAL

Not Advisable to Keep All Sizes of Bolts and Screws in Single Receptacle.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Tools and materials should be kept in their proper places. Do not keep all sizes of bolts or screws mixed together in a single receptacle, but fit up suitable boxes or bins, so that the supplies may be accessible on short notice.

Hay While Moon Shines.

Making hay while the moon shines is a sensible policy on days when it is too hot for such strenuous work as haymaking. Taking for granted, of course, that there is a moon.

TRAPPING HARMFUL LITTLE PINE MICE

Rodents Usually Follow Moles in Their Burrowing.

Considerable Damage Done to Vegetables Stored in Ground in Eastern States—Pests Can Be Destroyed By Trapping.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Pine mice, which usually follow moles in their tunneling and burrowing through the soil, have inflicted considerable damage recently in Virginia, Maryland and other eastern states, especially to vegetables stored in the ground and to early sown garden seed. The mole often gets the blame for rascality which is wrought by the field mouse. Moles live chiefly on worms and insects and do not destroy seeds of vegetables, while field mice gain a living from stealing seed and root crops.

Guillotine Trap Made Entirely of Metal.

These pests can be destroyed by trapping on small areas where the infestation is not extensive and where it is undesirable to put out poison. Twelve to 20 traps an acre may be used. The tunnels of the pine mouse should be excavated sufficiently to admit the trap on a level with the bottom, a garden trowel being used for digging.

Where mice are abundant on large areas poisoned bait should be distributed in teaspoonful quantities in the mouse runs and at the entrance of burrows. A mixture containing one ounce of powdered strychnine, one once of powdered bicarbonate of soda, and one-eighth ounce of saccharine should be sifted from a perforated tin box over 50 pounds of crushed wheat or 40 pounds of crushed oats, mixing the grain constantly so that the poison will be uniformly distributed. This dry mixture may be kept indefinitely without danger of fermentation.

Where it is necessary to use whole oats, the poison must penetrate the kernels, because mice hull the oats before eating them. Hence it is essential to dissolve one ounce of strychnia sulphate in two quarts of boiling water.

LITTLE DAMAGE DONE BEES

No Particular Harm Will Result in Spraying Apple Trees With Lime-Sulphur Solution.

According to Prof. H. A. Surface, Pennsylvania zoologist, little damage will result to bees in spraying apple trees with lime-sulphur when the blossoms are open. It has been found that bees do not like to feed upon flowers covered with lime-sulphur. Observation then would indicate that there is little danger to bees from such spraying.

APPLYING A SUMMER SPRAY

Work Should Be Performed With Nozzle Giving Good Mist With the Pressure Used.

The summer spray should be applied with a nozzle giving a good mist with the pressure used. At the time of application of the petal-fall spray, the calyx stands with the open part up, and the spray must be delivered from above. The object of the petal-fall spray is to fill the calyx cup full of poison.

STAPLE ARTICLES OF FOOD

City People Will Buy Beef, Pork and Mutton So Long as Prices Are Reasonable.

Beef, pork and mutton doubtless will continue to be staple articles of food for city people so long as they can buy these foods at any reasonable price. It would seem that farmers who raise a few calves, lambs, and pigs for the local market would have a good chance to market their feed to advantage.

TROUBLE WITH YOUNG LAMBS

White Scours Is Caused by Digestive Disorders—Milk of Magnesia Will Help Cure.

White scours in lambs is caused by digestive disorders. Lambs with this trouble should be taken away from their mothers and allowed only a little milk. A tablespoonful of milk of magnesia will help cure the trouble. Milk the udder out before letting a lamb nurse.